

# Mohave County Miner.

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## Tenderfoot as Mine Finders.

"I beats the dence, these lucky finds by people who hardly know enough to get away from a blast," growled an old timer, who had come down from Cripple Creek to get in on a good thing, if possible. Other mining men agreed with him, says a correspondent of the Sacramento Bee, and many incidences were cited to prove that luck was a most important thing to have in a search for mineral wealth. Among them was mentioned the little Johnny at Leadville. In the winter of 1879-80 three lads—John Curran, Thom Kelly and James H. Donovan—left Galena, Ill., and went to Leadville, where they dug away six feet of snow on Breeze Hill to put up a cabin. In this they froze and starved all winter. Young Kelly died from illness brought on by exposure and privation, and was soon followed by Curran, after whom the mine was named. Donovan is still living. They knew nothing about mining, located their claim haphazard, and yet discovered one of the richest gold mines in the world.

But Kelley's heirs are said to have sold their interest for only 1,000\$, and the Curran's for \$2,500. The amount Donovan got is unknown.

August Rische and George T. Hook, who found the Little Pittsburg, which gave Leadville its boom, were shoemakers. They worked at their trade most of the time and only went prospecting when someone grubstaked them. It is a fact that they were about to desert their claim and leave 10,000,000\$ behind them, when Rische to satisfy his great curiosity as to the character of the stuff they had been digging through for weeks, had an assay made and learned its great value. That certainly was good luck, and not the reward of knowledge or experience.

How much the Dillon brothers, Pat and Dick, knew about mining, metallurgy when they discovered the great silver ore body of the Little Chief in the winter of 1878-79, no one seems to know. When they located their claim it was regarded by the other miners as barren ground, and they were laughed at by many who thought that mining was an exact science. Judging from this the Dillons did not know much. They had an idea, however, that the experience of Rische and Hook with the Little Pittsburg could be repeated, so they dug away and waited for their turn to laugh. At a comparative shallow depth the rich ore was struck in such an immense body that the Dillons and their partner, Peter Finnerty, speedily became wealthy men. In less than two years the Dillons had run through more than 600,000\$, the product of the Little Chief and other claims and were nearly broke. Dick Dillon is now working in Cripple Creek as a miner at \$3 a day. Pat Dillon kept his money better, and made some good investments in Cripple Creek, and is reported to be worth 150,000\$. He lives on a big ranch in California. Finnerty was the shrewdest of the three, and has accumulated 250,000\$.

The very best mines in the Cripple Creek district were discovered by men who had luck and good muscles instead of capital and a scientific education. Winfield Scott Stratton, who located the famous Independence mine, had always been a carpenter and never got rich following his trade. It was nearly a year after the great rush to Cripple Creek that he picked out the group where the mine is located. He had seen the ledge a hundred times before he located it, and others, with greater or less experience as miners, has seen and examined it a thousand times and passed it by just as he had. No one, not even Stratton, asserts that the discovery of the Independence was anything but pure luck. He happened to be fortune's favorite at that time.

The experience of Jimmy Doyle, the millionaire mayor of Victor, in the Cripple Creek district, also illustrates the element of luck in mine finding in Colorado. Doyle, who had learned the carpenter's trade, but did not follow it, was driving a hack in Manitou when the Cripple Creek excitement began in 1891. In Colorado Springs was a young plumber named Jimmy Burns. The two were acquainted, and together they went to Cripple Creek to try their luck. Neither knew anything about mining. Battle Mountain, near Victor, was then covered with location stakes. There was a piece of land comprising about one sixth of an acre that had no owner because it was considered worthless. Doyle and Burns took up this land in the belief that something was better than nothing. They sent for John Harman, who was employed in driving a street scraper in Colorado Springs, to come and help them dig on their claim. Harman's mining experience consisted of what he had learned as a child in picking slate from the screens of Pennsylvania coal mines. For months the trio put in hard work sinking their shaft without a sign of pay ore. Their acquaintances sought to discourage them, but they persisted, and were awarded by striking a vein that made them millionaires.

Possibly Dennis Sullivan studied mining and mineralogy between stations when he was a conductor on the New York Central back in 1876, but it is doubtful if he would have applied this knowledge had it not been for his weak lungs which drove him to Colorado. He helped to locate the May Queen silver mine at Leadville, and the money he received for his interest in it helped him to buy into the Dead Pine at Cripple Creek, which gave him his fortune.

The Creede boom was started by the finding of some good looking stuff on Bachelor mountain by a poor prospector named George K. Smith. He had scratched all over the mining districts without success and finally got the idea that luck might hit him up around Creede, where the Holy Moses had found ore. Mrs. Mary A. Coffin of Buena Vista, was impressed with the same idea, and she and her husband went to Creede and ran a boarding house in order to grubstake Smith. One day in July Smith came into the cabin and said in a joking way, "I've found our fortunes this time," and told what he had found. Neither had any idea that an immensely rich mine had been found, but it soon proved to be one and the big boom was started.

## Death Valley's Dolefulness.

The following letter from the pen of M. M. Rice, familiarly known throughout Arizona as "Mike" Rice, newspaper man, officer, prospector, is worthy of reproduction. "Mike" wrote the letter from Manuel, California, to a friend in Phoenix:

"Yes! this is going to be a great mining country, and is very active at present. A vast amount of mining machinery is coming in every week and much attention given it by capital. Sullivan, of Denver, has been looking up the situation, and has taken hold of property. The Ivanpah copper company have just completed their plant and are turning out vast quantities of bullion. The Mineral Union company at Good Springs, over the line in Nevada, is now erecting a reduction plant of 100 tons capacity, and A. A. Dougherty, formerly of the Randsburg railroad, is developing some promising gold property at Searchlight. This camp will certainly prove a second Bodie. Yet on the whole it is no poor man's country, as labor is cheap, and supplies difficult to obtain, transportation is high and all pay heavy tribute to the railroad. I am informed by a prominent official of the California Eastern road

that rates will soon be nominal over their line. It is the distributing branch of a vast area of country, reaching to Death Valley on the west, the Colorado river on the east, and as far north as Pioche, Nev.

"Referring to Death valley recalls to my mind my recent wanderings in that almost unknown region. I scaled the summit of Panimint Peak last fall, and I shall always retain the impression the scene conveyed. In that dreary solitude at an elevation of 9,500 feet, I spent almost a whole day, and there I experienced that feeling of intense and indescribable solitude, peculiar to the desert, as to no other spot on earth. There is no other possible condition capable of conjuring up an immediate desire to fly back to the turmoil of activity in populous commercial communities, or to appreciate the beatitudes of association with friends and acquaintances, than a solitary vigil on this sky-scraping peak in the center of a sea of sand. The distance from my camp to the summit was about 12 miles, over a tortuous trail, traversable only on foot, occupying six hours in ascent and descent. The vision commands a radius of fully 200 miles. The atmospheric conditions were perfect—something unusual in those parts—not a dust cloud obscured the view, and what a view! I have gazed into the sombre gorges of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, scanned the sublimity of the far famed Yosemite, viewed the panorama at the base of Shasta, witnessed the glorious landscape from the Sierra Madra summit, marveled at the grandeur of the National park and communed with nature in the 'Garden of the Gods,' but in none of those panoramas have I experienced that intense impression of the nothingness of self, as this scene engraves on the mind.

"At my feet toward the east lies the 'Death Valley' scooped out of the bowels of the earth by some Titanic hand, devoid of animation or moisture, although its saline surface lies fathoms below the level of the sea. Here many of an unfortunate argonaut and lockless treasure seekers have succumbed to the most terrible privations, and their bones are bleaching over a great expanse of veridaceous sand. A feeling of insecurity overcomes one as he gazes into its mystic depths, and an intense or insane desire prompts one to precipitate himself from the eminence into the apparently unfathomable depression. Far to the north and east loom up the rugged mountain peaks of Nevada and Arizona, giant sentinels guarding the approach to, or warning the wayfarer against a disastrous journey, their sides and summits as devoid of vegetation as the awful valley of death itself. To the south, as far as human vision can penetrate, stretches out the vast expanse of the Mohave desert, its monotonous sterility and desolation intensified by great upheavals of lava, interspersed by a series of borax beds and meandering domes of drifting sands, hemmed in on the southwest by the San Gabriel and San Bernardino ranges, their sombre peaks like majestic towers piercing the azure vault of heaven.

"At my feet to the west lies the Panimint valley, although not so extensive as Death valley, yet equally dreary and desolate, its winds whispering tales of horror and suffering of man and beast whose temerity prompted them to traverse its inhospitable recesses in quest of wealth and water. Further west appears the Sierra Nevada mountains, an impassable barrier to further vision, rising abruptly from the Owens River lake and valley, whose waters contain not a particle of life. This great mountain chain is eroded by gigantic gorges and yawning chasms, looking in the dim distance like the serpentine meanderings of tiny rivulets, but in reality, irresistible torrents sweeping like trees and boulders in their way like particles of dust in the path of a cyclone. The Kern Peaks, Mt. Whitney, Fisherman's Peak and the 'Mourets,' Mount Dana, Miner, Lyall, Silver Peak and Fowler, with crowns of perpetual snow, vieing with each other in the successful penetration of the clouds.

"To the artist, the scientist or the romancer, this would be an inspiring panorama, as they could best portray sublimity, immensity and desolation, but to the weary prospector it is far from reassuring

of metallic success.

"To be alone in this center of desolation is enough to cure a man of the insane desire for the acquisition of sudden wealth, and when a man takes into consideration the tribulation and endurance necessary to a successful exploration of this metal impregnated region, he will come to the conclusion that the ordinary comforts enjoyed by the homeliest in the center of civilization is more compensatory than wealth acquired under such trying ordeals in this barren and waterless waste."—Tucson Citizen.

## MINING NEWS.

The Southern Pacific Company is shipping a great deal of concentrates from this point. The mining situation is very encouraging. New mines are becoming producers and old ones are being reactivated. Mining men are coming to Tucson from the east every day and this section of Arizona is receiving a thorough examination.—Tucson Citizen.

It is said that American miners and prospectors are arriving in Cuba in large numbers and the report comes from Santiago that some of them from the western states have recently located six gold mines in the Holguin district. These mines are old Indian workings and are believed to be very rich. The country is being scoured from one end to the other in search of minerals. Official notice was given of the location of two copper mines in the Cobre district.

The sale of the Butte copper mines, which was consummated yesterday for the snug sum of 100,000\$, is another transaction which will bring added prosperity to Tucson and vicinity. This group of copper mines is located seven miles south of the Azurite, and are in the same copper producing field. The sale is good for both buyers and sellers. The price gives them a good competence. The properties will become large producers under good management, and consequently profits will float into the coffers of the purchasers, and employment will be given to a large number of willing workers.—Tucson Star.

Some of the finest samples of hard coal known as anthracite have been discovered near the border of Sonora and Arizona, samples of which have been sent to El Paso for investigation and have been found to compare very favorably with the Pennsylvania coal; the parties owning the same have not secured their titles as yet. If the development work proves up a large deposit, the proposed extension of the Sierra Madre road will come very close to said coal fields, which will give at least private houses in El Paso and Juarez a cheap fuel, the anthracite of Pennsylvania being consumed in private houses in preference to bituminous coal by at least 75 per cent. of the total production of the anthracite.—El Paso Times.

J. S. Tebbets, manager of the Duquesne Mining and Reduction company of Arizona, remained over one day en route to El Paso. The Duquesne mines are situated in Washington Camp fifteen miles from Nogales, and the group is owned by the Westinhouse company, of Pittsburg, Pa. The ore runs about ten per cent. copper and five ounces of silver to the ton, and also gold, the ore existing in large bodies. The mine is fully developed and a special process has been devised for treating this particular ore, it being a sulphide. The company is about to construct a branch railroad, connecting the mines with the Sonora railroad, and once active operations are commenced this group of mines will become an important factor in the production of copper in Arizona.—Tombstone Prospector.

Considerable excitement has been caused in our city during the past few days, owing to the discovery of several ledges of gold bearing quartz, about seven miles below here in the main canyon. One group of claims has been located by Joe Huber, the blacksmith, who has begun development work on them. The quartz is more or less decomposed and iron-stained and has free gold sprinkled through it. Quite a number of excellent specimens showing considerable free gold were brought up yesterday. Jess Robinson is also another lucky man who has

succeeded in finding a ledge of the yellow metal. His claims are situated this side of the Huber group, but on the same lead which can be traced for several miles. The whole country adjacent to the new prospects has been located, and prospectors can be seen striking out over all the hills in that direction. Frank Dubacher and partners are still at work developing their gold prospects below Solomon Springs and the ledge is increasing in width as the depth of the shaft increases. The ore at present will run 15\$ or 20\$ in gold and continues to improve. From present indications it begins to look as though we were going to have a gold producing district as well as the banner copper district. Since the above was written an Orb reporter was shown a specimen of gold quartz which came from the Reilly group, about a mile and a half below town. The ore seems to be of the same character as that found on the Robinson and Huber, only being a little more decomposed.—Bisbee O b.

G W Pitcock, in a letter to the Los Angeles Mining Review, furnishes the following mining news from the famous Vulture mine: Having a chance to ride to the old historic Vulture mine, and as I had a desire to look it over and see the ground where so many millions have been taken out, I took advantage of it and went. Some place the output as high as 16,000,000\$, but it will never be known just how much wealth it has produced, for it was the custom there for the workmen to steal all they wanted. There is nothing going on at the mine now, except cyaniding the tailings, and there are forty acres of them, estimated to average 8 feet deep, and nearly as many more scattered along the creek for four miles. They are working four tanks with a capacity of 90 tons each, but it is slow work on account of lack of water. The water is pumped out of the mine. They are getting ready to start up work on both shaft and incline. They are both down 250 feet, the deepest workings in the mine, but the incline is 600 feet long, the veins having a dip of 36 degrees. Both are in a fine body of ore and they are going to sink on them both. The superintendent thinks another 100 feet will give them all the water they will want for milling purposes. It is the opinion of all who are familiar with the mine that they have but just tapped the treasures that lie below. The old mine has been abused from first to last, and never has been worked systematically. There is rich ore enough left in the pillars supporting the roof to make a score of men rich. News has just come into camp, in a letter from Mr. Hays, one of the owners, saying that they have stocked it for 1,000,000\$, and are selling the stock for 75 cents on the dollar, and are about ready to start up on a big scale. The old eighty stamp mill will be taken down and a new one put up to take its place with all the latest improvements. The old workings are to be cleaned out and timbered up and made safe. There are a number of Mexicans buried under a cave in there who have never been dug out. It means a good deal for this part of Arizona if the Vulture resumes its place among the great producers of the territory.

The legislature has passed a bill and Gov. Roosevelt has signed it dispensing with the kissing of the Bible in the administration of oaths in the courts of New York.

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